

THE EPISTLE

EARLY FALL 2025

OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 15



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
655 WAYNE AVENUE
DEFIANCE, OH 43512
WWW.STJOHNDEFIANCE.COM
419.782.5766

From the Desk of Pastor Mews



PASTOR MEWS EPISTLE: OCTOBER, 2025 “THE CHRISTIAN’S ROLE IN SOCIETY”

Since 2017, 500 years after the nailing of the 95 Theses, my Reformation sermons each year have reflected upon the events that specifically occurred 500 years after the actual Reformation in Europe. This year, my sermon and this article will reflect upon Luther’s “Admonition to Peace”, written in 1525.

Since the assassination of Charlie Kirk, there has been much discussion and discourse about the Christian’s role in society and how society functions when there are massive disagreements. There were similar issues in Luther’s day. Peasants believed that they had been abused and mistreated by the wealthy and powerful, namely those in authority, and their response was violence and physical destruction, which greatly disturbed the upper classes. Luther’s popularity, sharp insights and timely Biblical wisdom elevated his thoughts not only for the Church, but for public life. Luther found himself in the proverbial hot spot, “between a rock and a hard place”. He would unleash the power of God’s Word in addressing both sides with the power of the Gospel and the peace of Christ through his tract “An Admonition to Peace”.

1) Luther first admonished the rich as living a life of “luxury and extravagance”, so that the “poor people can bear it no longer”. As violence spread to them, Luther cautioned the wealthy who could bring more arms and force to violence, to “try kindness first and look to God and ask to avoid a fire that no one can extinguish”.

2) Luther urged the peasants to follow Christ’s and the apostles’ teachings and to seek justice through peaceful means. Luther, citing Matthew, asked all to “walk another mile, give them your cloak and coat and turn the other cheek, when one is forcing you who does evil”. (Matthew 5:39-41) Luther believed that Christians are to obey laws that may be unjust, and that Christians are to pray “deliver us from evil”, and to love our enemies.



3) Luther quotes several passages to encourage tolerance of mistreatment. He reminded both sides, the wealthy and the abused, that “the wrath belongs to God. Bless those who insult you, pray for your enemies and do good to those who do evil”. Luther showed concrete examples of Christ and His disciples responding to mistreatment without violence as they turned to prayer.

4) Luther, unlike the violent preacher Thomas Muntzer, who urged peasants into battle, sought to work with governors and his evangelical colleagues to build trust and implement Godly changes for a “whole territory at once”.

5) To Luther, the key was the “changing of the heart”. He supported peasants who believed they should be able to call their own pastors without interference from the State. Luther urged the State to give approval for the preaching of the Gospel, allowing individuals to believe what they wanted. He stressed that the government should bear the Sword to keep peaceful order and to enact policy insofar as it was just.

6) Luther’s thoughts have blessed the world, including you and me, in his desire to keep the State out of Church dogma and clergy selection, yet protecting the freedom of the Church. These keen insights and directives have been proven trustworthy, so much that they have been used by our founding fathers in framing our nation’s first Bill of Rights.

The Gospel of Christ, His death, His grace, and His life provide a Godly path for dealing with difficult and sensitive subjects then, now, and until His return, when we will live in peace forever! In Christ’s service, Pastor K F Mews





PERSONAL FROM PASTOR MEWS:

- Thank you for your kind words, gifts and cards demonstrating your love for my family and me following the death of my father on August 21st. His funeral was on Tuesday, September 2, at Shore Haven Lutheran Church in Euclid, Ohio.
- Thank you also for your kind words, gifts and cards as we celebrated 40 years of my service in the ministry, beginning on August 1, 1985. The formal recognition was at the 9:00 service on September 14. I began serving here on that date as a fourth grade teacher and youth minister.
- Pastor Mews and his wife were on vacation from September 27 to October 2 in Florida.
- Pastor will be returning to Euclid to help conduct business and finalize the selling of his father's house on various upcoming weekends.
- Pastor will be on vacation from November 7 to 9, attending the LSU / Alabama football game in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



OFFICIAL ACTS:

- Funeral of John Goldenetz on September 5; he died on August 30.
- Baptism of Landon Harrington on August 31 after the 11:00 a.m. service

UPCOMING OFFICIAL ACTS:

- Marriage of Isaac Reynolds and Mandy Hartman, October 4, 3:30; ceremony at family member home
- Confirmation of Matthew Munn and Stephen Cromly on October 5, at the 11:00 service
- Marriage of Braydon Savage and Erica Stykemain on December 6, in Ada, Ohio
- Baptisms of Molly, Bella, and Ziva Harrington on November 23 at 9:00 a.m. service

OHIO –DISTRICT / NW OHIO / PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:

- Pastor attended the NW Ohio Circuit 1 Pastors' meeting on Tuesday, September 9, at St. John Lutheran in Sherwood. We will host the February Pastors' Circuit Meeting here.
- Pastor attended the American Association of Christian Counselors Conference on September 22 - 27, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN,
- Pastor and the church office staff will be attending the 2025 Ohio District Church Workers' Conference on October 13 - 15, at St. James Lutheran, Cleveland.

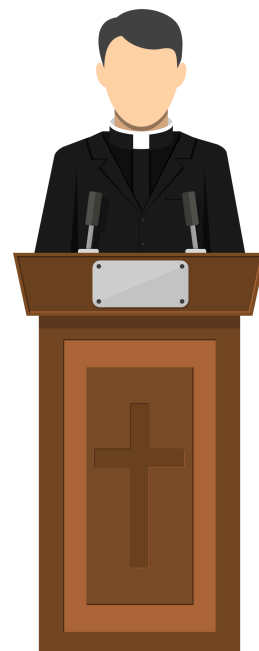
Pastor Mews Sermons, October, 2025

October 4-5, 17th Sun after Pentecost *"Opposites: Popular and Faithful"* based on the text: 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Theme: Faithful / Servant

October 11-12, 18th Sun. after Pentecost *"Homeward Bound"* based on the text: Ruth 1:1-19a Theme: Repentance / Christ

October 18-19, 19th Sun. after Pentecost *"Good and Bad Actors"* based on the text: Luke 18:1-8 Theme: God's Action / Justice

October 26-27, Reformation Sunday *"Peace and Marriage"* based on the text: John 8:31-36 Theme: Peace / Marriage



SJL RECONCILIATION PROCESS: "Church Doctor Ministries--*Healthy Churches Thrive*"

- A three-year commitment with Diagnostics & *Healthy Churches Thrive*
- Survey Window for Church Governance survey (online only) October 2-6
- Vision Team Meeting TBA
- EDCD Meetings: October 3, @ 11:30 a.m. & November 18, @ 11:30 a.m.
- Will arrange "Governance Team" shortly
- Church Doctor Staff consultation - October 27 & 28 All Day
- Spiritual Gifts Workshop #1 October 28, @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Outreach Training Workshop November 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Spiritual Gifts Workshop #2 December 2, @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Leading From the Center of God's Will Training For Leaders (by invitation) December 9, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Church Governance Consultation January 14 & 15
- Discover Your Windows Special Presentation "Resurrecting a Biblical Worldview of the Local Church" Open to all, February 10, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.





CHURCH DOCTOR MINISTRIES ARE REQUESTING ANYONE WHO HAS INTEREST IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CHURCH'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE TO PLEASE COMPLETE THE CHURCH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION SURVEY BETWEEN OCTOBER 2-6, 2025 AT [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SJLCDFIANCECGC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJLCDFIANCECGC).
IF THIS DOES NOT INTEREST YOU, THERE IS NO NEED TO TAKE THE SURVEY.



PRIVATE COMMUNION

Pastor continues to offer private Communion for anyone who wishes to have Communion. Please call the church office for an appointment.

SHUT-IN CALLS

We have around 30 people who are designated as shut-ins in our congregation. Pastor, George Kaiser and Walt & Lorna Smith are keeping in contact with our members. If the shut-in person is comfortable having a home visit, arrangements will be made for this visit.

PASTOR'S SERMONS

If you missed a sermon, you can find it on our YouTube channel, on our webpage (www.stjohndefiance.com) and on our Podcast site.

Google search: st john lutheran church defiance ohio youtube. Then subscribe to St. John channel to get notified when we are broadcasting "live".

LINK TO OUR WEBPAGE

<https://www.stjohndefiance.com/sermons-2/>

LINK TO OUR PODCAST

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964>

Put your favorite podcast app on your phone and listen to the sermons any time of day.

Our service is broadcast a week later on the radio on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on WONO 1280 AM and on WZOM 105.7 FM at 8:00 a.m.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AT ST. JOHN

Ruth Blake

Ruth joins by transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Baytown, Texas. She is a retired teacher. Her husband, Dr. Jon Blake, passed away November 22, 2021. Her hobbies include reading, jewelry making, singing and gardening. Ruth has served as the church's choir director, as an education committee member, in various teacher organizations, and has participated in Bible studies, Sunday School and garden club. Ruth would like to join the St. John Bible studies and other ministry opportunities. She desires to be a disciple and to disciple others.

Katelynn Crites

Katelynn joins by transfer from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio. She is employed as a nurse at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, baking and crocheting. She would like to join a Christian Crafters group of some kind.

Alex Fritz

Alex joins by transfer from Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Defiance, Ohio. Alex is employed as a farmer and a crop insurance adjuster. His hobbies include farming, sports (Detroit Tigers, Miami Dolphins, Ohio State) and gardening. Alex is married to Megan (Gerken) Fritz and has two daughters, Amelia and Evelyn. Alex is a member of the St. John Lutheran Church Dart ball team and served as a Vacation Bible School volunteer. He would like to join the Youth Board.

Stephen Cromly

Stephen joins by the Rite of Confirmation. Stephen is retired and his hobbies include kayaking and going on cruises. He is also a volunteer at Independence Dam State Park in Defiance, Ohio. Stephen is married to member Janice Cromly, who is also retired, and they have two children, Jayson and Kirsten. They also have four grandchildren. Stephen would like to join the men's group (Men's Project team) at St. John.

Mike & Christy McCarty

Mike joins by transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Elmore, OH.

He is retired and his hobbies include golf, and following the grandchildren's activities and sporting events. Mike is married to Christy (Schaffer) and they have five children: Kyle McCarty, Kathryn McCarty, Renee Schlade, Emily Wiseman, and Kyle Palmer (deceased).

Christy will be joining as a new member, and she is also retired. Her hobbies include baking, gardening, and following the grandchildren's activities and sporting events.

Matthew Munn

Matthew joins by the Rite of Confirmation. Matthew is employed at Napoleon Machine. His hobbies include fishing, putt-putt golf, and spending time with family. Matthew is married to Mikayla (Shock) and has two children: a son, Tate, and a daughter, Tinley.

Dave & Becky Schultz

Dave joins by transfer from Zion Lutheran Church, Defiance, Ohio. He is retired and his hobbies include sports, hunting, fishing, cruising, travel cards, old Western movies and his family, especially his grandchildren. Dave is married to Becky (Dirr). He has been a member of the Elks, the Eagles and the VFW, and he has coached baseball and basketball. He has three children: Brittany Mick and Nicholas and Austin Schultz. Dave also has three grandchildren.

Becky joins by transfer from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Brunswick, Ohio. She is retired and enjoys family, sports and hunting. Becky is married to Dave Schultz and they just celebrated their one-year anniversary on August 17, 2025. She has two daughters, Gwendolyn and Corinne Dmitruk. Becky was a member of the Hospice of The Western Reserve Group and Cleveland Care on the Square, and she served on the Altar Guild and the financial secretary while at St. Mark's, Brunswick. Becky would like to serve with the Altar Guild, the Clothes Closet and the Food Pantry ministries here at St. John.

Bible Study Opportunities - Led by Pastor Mews

FALL LIFE WITH GOD:

Began on September 16 and will conclude on December 30, 2025. The class meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 in the Fellowship room. For those interested in learning about the Lutheran faith, wishing to reaffirm their faith or to become a communicant member. For high school age and above. After the 2nd class no new members may join; another Life with God (WINTER LWG) will be offered in January, 2026.

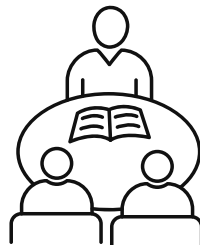
September dates:

Tuesday, October 7 CLASS

Tuesday, October 14 NO CLASS

Tuesday, October 21 CLASS

Tuesday, October 28 CLASS



“HOW JESUS CHANGED THE WORLD” In-depth Bible class discussing how Jesus impacted society and shaped the world we live. The class meets from 2:00-3:00 p.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Room. All is provided, guests are welcome.

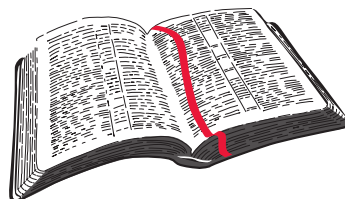
September dates:

Wednesday, October 8 CLASS

Wednesday, October 15 NO CLASS

Wednesday, October 22 CLASS

Wednesday, October 29 CLASS



“ROMANS BIBLE STUDY” THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: This class is an overview of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. It meets Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship hall. Guests are always welcome, all is provided. The first Thursday in each month, we have a collection of food, kitchen and bathroom items for the Path Center.

September dates:

Thursday, October 9 CLASS

Thursday, October 16 NO CLASS

Thursday, October 23 CLASS

Thursday, October 30 CLASS



Prayer Requests

Please let the church office know of any prayer requests. Call 419.782.5766 or email church.office@stjohntigers.com.

For the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy or Penny via phone, text, or email if you have a prayer request, an addition, a correction, or any feedback for the Prayer Chain Warriors to include in their prayers.

Judy Detter (detterjudy@gmail.com), text Judy: 419.783.7032. Penny Mueller (pennym41@gmail.com) text Penny:

419.304.5768

Bible Studies

SUNDAY-10:00 a.m.

**Phil Rohlf – “Mews Sermon Review”
in the Cafeteria**

**Sandy Gyurnek –
“God Never Gives Up On You”
Fellowship Room on the left**

**Jeff Rohlf – Max Lucado: “The Promise
of Psalm 23, Traveling Light”
Adult Ed A Room**



ACTS

Adult CrossTraining

Our Adult CrossTraining Studies (ACTS) continues on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We follow the same schedule as the CrossTraining students - bring your student to CrossTraining and meet with the adults!

We are studying varied lessons prepared by Dr. Kari Voe of The Lutheran Hour Ministries. They are timely and speak to our lives in view of the daily headlines. Our October lessons will include:

October 1 - The Shepherd

October 8 - Receiving Jesus Gifts

October 15 - What We Are

October 22 - It Isn't Fair

October 29 - Trunk-or-Treat (in south parking lot only)

Please join us in the Adult Ed Classroom as we grow in faith with lively discussions and fun!

Judy Detter and Penny Mueller



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Our LCMS church workers serve all of us in the Body of Christ with faithfulness and dedication. To acknowledge their service, the Synod is encouraging churches and schools to show appreciation to workers on designated dates throughout the year. The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month. Let's be sure to show our gratitude to Pastor Kurt Mews. No gesture is too small! Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ around the LCMS in letting Pastor Mews know how much we appreciate him



MEN'S PROJECT TEAM

The Men's Project Team meets on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. The team discusses projects around the church. We also discuss leadership, talent, and time schedules for projects. The Project Team is not all blood, sweat and tears, but a time of fellowship, to get to know your fellow Christians, and sometimes to solve the world's problems. In the past the Team has had coffee and sometimes donuts while breaking down the work list, dividing the work load according to talents. This format has worked pretty well. God has given every human being a gift or talent to use for His purposes. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

I look forward to enjoying everyone's company as we share fellowship.

-Thom Kent



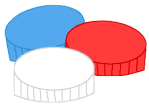
LADIES AID "They sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield." Psalm 107:37

We hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. Our next meeting is Oct., 30, 2025 at 2 p.m.

Karen Kent will be the hostess chair. The Food Pantry item is Kleenex.

We are planning on making noodles in October or early November. Please watch the bulletin for the date. Remember that many hands make light work.

Also, it is time to be thinking about electing officers for the positions of Secretary and Vice President. They will serve for two years. We will have the election at our November meeting.



SAVE YOUR PLASTIC CAPS!

We are saving **CLEAN** plastic caps (any size, shape, or color) to possibly have a park bench on our church property. Please bring them to the church office.

Examples of caps: water bottles, milk jugs, sprays (oil, etc.), cleaning products, food products. Thank you!



The St. John Lutheran Food Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. If you meet the Federal Income Guidelines, then you can visit our food pantry once a month. With each visit you need to bring an ID with your current address. If you do not have an updated ID, then bring in a current bill with your address.

Since January 1, 2025 we have served 672 families or 1,942 people with a distribution of 3,036 bags of food.

As of September 14, 2025 we have served 47 families and distributed 211 bags of food. We had an average of 11.75 families served in a 2-hour span. Needless to say, the volunteers are hopping keeping up filling the orders.

On Wednesday, September 17, we had our monthly food run to Toledo to get more food.

For Thanksgiving, we will have the clients mark the items that want on an additional sheet marked for Thanksgiving. Food items requested are located in the weekly bulletin and the monthly Epistle. Thank you for your donations. I will need additional helpers the month of November to fill the orders.

Fred and I will travel to Keystone in Lima to pick up the canned turkey. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the canned turkey, mark your donation to the food pantry-TURKEY. The projected expense for 9 cases of turkey is \$1,458.00. THANK YOU!

The food pantry relies on volunteers to help check people in and to fill the orders. This January through April, I have several people who will be going south for the winter. I NEED HELP! Please call me if you are interested in helping. TRAINING IS AVAILABLE!! Call me, Rita Bergman, 419.788.0951. I want to thank St. John members for their continued support to help people in need. God bless you!





We are going to start collecting food items for the Thanksgiving bags. Please have your donation to the church office by **Friday, October 31**. Distribution of the bags will start on November 4

and will be included with the client's monthly food order.

I will need people to help fill the Thanksgiving orders for the month of November.

This is in addition to my regular workers.

Please mark bags for Thanksgiving when donating.

- Canned Corn or Green Beans
- Turkey Stuffing
- Instant Potatoes
- Turkey Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Egg Noodles
- Chicken Broth
- Corn Bread Mix
- Canned Pumpkin
- Carnation Milk
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Vegetable Oil
- Yams
- Cake Mix with Frosting or Brownie Mix
- Salt and Pepper sets

*Canned turkey will be purchased for the bags.

Please give all monetary donations to Krystle to put in the Food Pantry account.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rita Bergman, Food Pantry Manager

419.788.0951





The Clothes Closet



located across the street from the school, continues to provide gently used clothing at an affordable price to our community. The Clothes Closet is open on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. If you have a donation, you may drop it off on Monday or Tuesday from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. or during the times we are open. Bring donations and come on in and do a little shopping. The Clothes Closet took in \$18,603.34 in 2024. We also helped 60 families with 110 bags of free clothing. The Clothes Closet donated \$1,000 to the Defiance Furniture Bank, \$1,000 to Operation K.A.V.I.C (Keller Assists Veterans In Crisis), and \$50 a month towards missions. We also funded the ramp out in front of the Clothes Closet. If anyone would be interested in volunteering at the Clothes Closet, please call Nancy Eickenberg at 419.785.4269 or Linda Hageman at 419.439.3284.

OUTREACH MINISTRY **Epistle – October 2025**



Outreach Ministry organized Friendship Sunday, which was held on September 14th and included displays about various groups, boards, and ministries serving at St. John. The Fellowship Board prepared and served a delicious breakfast. Outreach prepared New Member bags, which included a Luther's Small Catechism, a cross ornament, a mug with candy, and a note of welcome. Guest bags, which are available in the narthex for guests, are also prepared by the ministry group.

In October, Outreach will be present at the Halloween Parade with free popcorn and handouts such as Bibles, coloring books and crayons, and the popular small Jesus figures. Thanks to Jim and Sandy Morris for providing the electricity for the popcorn machine!

Outreach will again have a Nativity display at the Christmas Drive-Thru held on the Defiance County Fairgrounds in Hicksville.

The group usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Room. Fresh faces with fresh ideas for sharing the Gospel with the community are always welcome!



Scouting News October 2025

We're still selling popcorn through the end of October. If you haven't gotten yours, Chris will be selling in the lower hallway. The Cub Scouts had a great join night, picking up sixteen new members! We are growing! They are working on their Bobcat ranks and figuring out dens. We welcome our new Cub Master, Derek Lynn! They are having a Halloween party and marching in the Halloween Parade with the Boy Scouts. For the Boy Scout Troop, October, is a busy month, two different Apple Butter Festivals, a Camporee, and the Halloween Parade. This month, meetings are about planning. They also welcomed a new member who is already chipping in ideas. There was a change in leadership for the Scouts so everyone is learning about their new positions within the troop. The Troop extends their thanks to all who have dropped off pop cans and newspapers in the garage in the south parking lot. It not only helps with their conservation project of recycling but it has also helped with the cost of their activities. Youth and adults are always welcome to attend Pack and Troop activities to learn more about our program. Any questions can be directed to Stephanie Sindel at 419-438-8268.

CARE NOTES

There are new Care Notes available in the Bergman Resource Room:

Take One – Take Heart; Give One – Give Hope

Working Your Way Through Stressful Circumstances

Additional titles have been placed in the Caring Ministry Resource Room just off of the Work Room. Please take one for you or give to a friend.

Notes now available:



"Grieving the Loss of a Good Friend"

"Parenting a Troubled Teen"

"Giving Your Worries to God"

"Breaking Through Your Denial"

"Examining Your Unresolved Anger"

"Facing the Emptiness of Depression"

"Bargaining Continuing on Your Healing Path"

"Transforming Your Loss With Acceptance"

"What is Palliative Care--And When Is It Called For?"

October

Eighty +



Jim Sisco	October 2 nd	(86)
Phil Hoag	October 2 nd	(80)
Gary Bergman	October 5 th	(81)
Rose Webb	October 8 th	(82)
Barb Ratzlaff	October 21 st	(82)
Sharon Meyer	October 29 th	(81)
Bernard Sines	October 31 st	(95)

Happy Anniversary

40+ Years

Stephen & Linda Hageman	October 3 rd	(55)
Tim & Connie Parsons	October 6 th	(41)
James & Peg Miller	October 10 th	(61)
Roel & Janet Valle	October 11 th	(44)
Tom & Jean Koppenhofer	October 12 th	(62)
Gerald & Sharon Scheuerman	October 13 th	(53)
Steve & Marilyn Buchholz	October 17 th	(50)
Dave & Bonnie Etchison	October 18 th	(50)
Mark & Debbie Wagner	October 27 th	(41)
Bob & Cathy Heyman	October 28 th	(47)
Dave & Julie Sanders	October 29 th	(42)



Happy
Birthday

80+

Susie Curl	November 5th	(81)
Norma Miller	November 12th	(94)

November

Happy
Anniversary

40+

Bill & Marsha Wagner	November 3rd	(52)
Clarence & Jean Meyer	November 5th	(75)
John & Bev Gray	November 7th	(44)
Brad & Amy Meyer	November 9th	(40)
James & Jeanette Tingle	November 10th	(52)
James & Nancy Rensi	November 14th	(44)
Stephen & Janice Cromly	November 15th	(56)

*80 plus Birthdays and Anniversaries listed for November are from November 1st - 15th. Birthdays & Anniversaries for the rest of November will be published in the November - December (Late-fall Epistle edition)

Your Spiritual Gifts

Discover God's Plan
for Your Life

Kent R. Hunter

AUTHOR OF WHO BROKE MY CHURCH?

Discover your Spiritual Gifts
today by taking the survey and
joining Pastor Mews' in a book
study on Monday evenings!



YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

BOOK STUDY

Join Pastor Mews as we dig into our spiritual gifts. This book is a comprehensive approach to spiritual gifts as they (1) appear in the New Testament and (2) are accepted by reputable biblical scholars. Some Christians do not believe all of the gifts are operable today. Others believe that God uses all of the gifts listed in the New Testament. Still others add a few “gifts” from the Old Testament, which many Christians prefer to call “talents.”

WEEKLY ON MONDAYS

STARTING OCTOBER 20TH

MONDAY, 6:30-8:00PM

Register by Contacting the Church Office or on the signup sheet hanging across from the lunch room.



Cross Training Happenings



October 2025

Kicking Off A New Cross Training Year

We kicked off our 2025-2026 Cross Training classes on September 3 with a pizza dinner and game night. Currently we have 3 eighth graders, 5 seventh graders, 2 sixth graders and 10 first through fifth graders.

MinistrySafe Training

Thank you to all our students families; and the congregation members who have taken the MinistrySafe Training to allow us to better serve and protect the youth here at St. John Lutheran. As of today we have trained 35 adults.

Gospel Play Boxes

Thank you to Debbie Wagner and the Cross Training students. Check out the 12 new Gospel Play Boxes that have been placed in the back of the church.

Thank you

Thank you to Paula Hahn, Stephanie Sindel, Chad Clark & Dani Figley for serving as our classroom monitors in September.

Leading Us This year

Youth Choir - Connie Warncke
1st - 5th - Kristina Phipps
6th - Rick Baldwin
7th - 8th - Pastor Mews

Trunk or Treat Community Outreach Event

We are having our annual Trunk or Treat Outreach Event on Wednesday, October 29 from 6:00 - 7:30. This year we are switching it up! The entire event will be outside in the west parking lot. We are hoping to have 20-25 trunks and have purchased 12 religious trunk decorations that are available on a first-come basis.

There will be free hot dogs, chips and water to drink.

Sign up today by calling the church office or on the bulletin board next to room 14. Candy donations are also being collected.

We are counting on you to make this year a success!



Bibles & Catechisms Dedication Sunday, October 26th 11:00 am Worship Service

All Cross Training students and their families are encouraged to join us as Pastor dedicates their Bibles and prays for a new year of Catechism classes.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

655 WAYNE AVENUE
DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512

TRUNK OR TREAT



CHIPS

CANDY

HOTDOGS



**SIGN UP TODAY TO SERVE AT
OUR TRUNK OR TREAT
COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT**



★ Election Day ★
Pulled Pork Dinner
★ Drive-thru ★

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 – 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



The dinner is a fundraiser for the Shop with a Cop program. This is an annual event where uniformed police officers and volunteers help children and their families with holiday shopping. The program is free for the children and their families.

\$12.00 Adult Meal: Pulled pork, baked potato, coleslaw, sauerkraut, roll, brownie

\$5.00 Kids' Meal: Hot dog, chips, cookie, drink

– Tickets on sale Oct. 1 thru Oct. 31, 2025–

Tickets can be purchased from: Marlene Eberle, George Kaiser, Sharon Kaiser, Linda Hageman, Jean Hoag, Carolyn Hoyle, Janet Koch, Jan McGhee, Anne Miller, Beth Miller, Carolyn Richard, Samira Stelzer, Angie Soukup, Karen Tobias, Diana Grim, Rita Bergman, Denise Spencer, Christine Turner or the Church Office. Or you can place your dinner order form and check in the offering plate, and we will make sure you receive your tickets.

Pulled Pork Dinner Drive Thru: Tuesday Nov. 4, 2025 – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Name: _____

No. of Tickets: Adults _____ Kids _____

Phone # _____ Total _____

Checks for dinners or cash donations are to be written to St. John Lutheran Church
655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, Ohio 43512. 419.782.5766

MIDDLE SCHOOL *Bible*
STUDY & HANGOUT

SUNDAYS 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**WITH MR. BRITT GERKEN
& MR. AUSTIN FRITZ**

OCTOBER 5

OCTOBER 12

OCTOBER 19

OCTOBER 26

**GRADES 4 - 8
DOWNSTAIRS IN YOUTH ROOM**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

655 WAYNE AVE, DEFIANCE

St.



St. John Lutheran

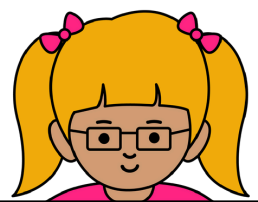
Sundays, Sept. - May
9:00 - 10:00 am

In the lower hallway, Room
17, between the restrooms

Church Services are on
Saturdays at 5:30 pm
Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 am

If you have
questions, contact
the church office at
419-782-5766

**PRESCHOOL -
5TH GRADE**



We are God's MASTERPIECE created for good works

Ephesians 2:10

OCTOBER



October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 28 COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	29 Finance 9:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	30 Food Pantry 9 am	1 Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	2 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Elders Meeting 6 pm	3 Clothes Closet 10 am CHURCH GOVERNANCE SURVEY WINDOW (OCTOBER 2 – 6 TH)	4 COMMUNION Hartman / Reynolds Wedding 3:30 pm Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
5 COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies 10 am	6 Finance 9:30 am Life With God 2:00 pm TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	7 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm	8 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	9 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Boy Scouts 5:30 pm	10 Clothes Closet 10 am	11 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
12 NON-COMMUNION Worship 9:00 / 11:00am Sunday School 9 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies 10 am Finance 6:30 pm	13 Finance 9:00 am Music Mtg. 11:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Staff @ Conference	14 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Staff @ Conference	15 Mews' Bible Study 2pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Staff @ Conference	16 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Parish Planning 6 pm	17 Clothes Closet 10 am	18 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
19 Communion Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies 10 am	20 Finance 9:30 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	21 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Life With God TBD	22 Vision Team 9:30 am Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	23 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid 2 pm	24 Clothes Closet 10 am	25 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
26 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies 10 am	27 Finance 9:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Staff Consultation w/ Church Doctors	28 Finance 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm Staff Consultation w/ Church Doctors Spiritual Gifts 6:00 pm Life With God TBD	29 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm TRUNK OR TREAT 6 PM Senior Choir 6:30 pm	30 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid Mtg. 2 pm	31 Clothes Closet 10 am	1 November COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm



November

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am	3 Finance 9:30 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	4 Food Pantry 9 am Pulled Pork Dinner 4:30 – 6 pm	5 Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	6 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Elders Meeting 6 pm	7 Clothes Closet 10 am	1 November COMMUNION ***** NON-COMMUNION November 8 Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
9 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am	10 Finance 9:00 am Life With God 2:00 pm TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	11 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm	12 Endowment Mtg. 10 am Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	13 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Boy Scouts 5:30 pm	14 Clothes Closet 10 am	15 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
16 COMMUNION	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29

*The full November Epistle calendar will be published in the November - December (Late-fall Epistle edition)

